

686 Grd

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a digital printing process employing a CTP device 14, hues can easily be changed in a process of generating printing plates without going back to a prior process. A plurality of gradation conversion curves whose gradation characteristics are different stepwise from each other, which are stored in a gradation conversion curve saving unit 22, are displayed on a display unit 36. The user selects a desired of the displayed gradation conversion curves with respect to at least one color element with a keyboard/mouse 34. The selected gradation conversion curve is set in an LUT converter 26. Input image data G can easily be converted into output image data Ga by converting the gradations of the input image data G according to the gradation conversion curve set in the LUT converter 26. The image data Ga is converted by a binarizing unit 30 into binary image data H, which is supplied to the CTP device 14. The CTP device 14 outputs printing plates each bearing a binary image represented by the binary image data H.